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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,823	06/25/2003	Olivier De Lacharriere	016800-515	1993
7590 05/14/2008 BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404				
EXAMINER DUTT, ADITI				
ART UNIT 1649		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 05/14/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief

Application No.

10/602,823

Applicant(s)

LACHARRIERE ET AL.

Examiner

Aditi Dutt

Art Unit

1649

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 14 April 2008 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 37,38,41-44 and 47-54.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 39,40,45,46 and 64-67.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See continuation sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

/Jeffrey Stucker/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1649

/Aditi Dutt/
Examiner, Art Unit 1649

Continuation of 11: Does not place the application for condition of allowance because:

112-1st paragraph - Written description

Claims 37-38, 41-44, 47-54 stay rejected because

112-1 Written description issues remain. With the exception of capsaicin as the peripheral nervous stimulant, and a specific unattractive sensation, the skilled artisan cannot envision all peripheral nervous stimulants and all unattractive sensation to detect skin neurosensitivity.

103(a)

Claims 37-38, 41-44 and 48-54 stay rejected.

Applicant traverses the rejection on the basis of an alleged different purpose demonstrated by Robinson et al. Applicants assert that while the instant Application relates to a method identifying a person with sensitive skin, Robinson et al. aim at characterizing a product.

Applicants further argue that Robinson et al. do not reduce the stimulant dose to identify a person with sensitive skin. Applicants thus conclude that the person of ordinary skill will not be motivated to perform tests using chemicals on sensitive skin to determine skin sensitivity.

Applicants' arguments are considered but not persuasive because of reasons stated in the last Office Action dated 25 January 2008 (pages 4-7). The claimed invention is directed to a method of evaluating level of neurosensitivity. Regardless of whether Robinson et al.'s purpose is to characterize a product, Robinson et al. still teach a method to assess the neurosensory skin irritation using capsaicin, comprising the same steps as in the claimed invention. Robinson et al., further teach that the method allows the classification of subjects having sensitive skin versus normal skin. Furthermore, contrary to Applicant's allegation about the dose of the stimulant, optimization within prior art conditions or through routine experimentation is obvious to one skilled in the art. Therefore, the claimed invention as a whole is prima facie obvious over the teachings of Robinson et al. and stay rejected.

AD

7 May 2008